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FOR MORE INFORMATION
ON THESE TOPICS.

HOME ENERGY-EFFICIENT HOME

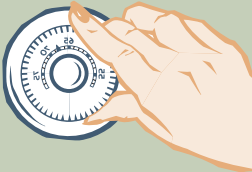
ENERGY AND MONEY SAVING IDEAS

AN AVERAGE U.S. HOUSEHOLD
SPENDS ABOUT \$1,300 PER YEAR
ON UTILITY BILLS.

SAVING ENERGY AT HOME DOESN'T
require a major investment of money –
or even your time. The Minnesota
Department of Commerce Energy's
HouseWarming guide offers ideas that
can save a typical homeowner at least
\$100 to \$200 a year. Suggestions
include:

HOME HEATING

Lower the
thermostat by
at least 5
degrees while
you're at work or
asleep, and save on your heating bill.



Close a bedroom door and heat
register during the day, or close off an
unused room entirely, and save about
\$50 a year.

Open shades to let in the
sun's warmth – close them at
night to keep heat inside.

Lock windows to tighten
the seal and stop heat leaks.

WATER HEATING

Turn down the temperature
setting on your water heater to 120 - 125
degrees to save energy and prevent
scalding.

Fix a
dripping hot
water faucet
that can cost
more than \$35 a
year. Usually it
only needs a new
washer.



APPLIANCES

Replace worn-out refrigerator door
gaskets.

Save half the energy a dishwasher
uses by not using the dry cycle.

Turn off or unplug appliances,
especially while you're away.

For more information, call the
Energy Information Center at 651-296-
5175 or visit <http://www.state.mn.us>,
keywords "energy saving ideas." The
brochure will be available at the
Bloomington Home Improvement Fair.
See page 1.

GOT REMODELING PLANS?

If you're planning a remodeling
project, consider increasing the energy
efficiency of your home at minimal,
additional cost. The Home Improvement
Fair offers good ideas on remodeling
and building projects. *See page 1.*

To save money and
protect our
environment, it makes
sense to buy the most
efficient appliances
and to conserve energy.
Every time you buy a
home appliance, tune up your
furnace or replace a light bulb,
you're making a decision that

affects the air we breath, the water
we drink and the ground we walk.
Electricity is generated in a
number of ways. Approximately
60 percent of the electricity in
Minnesota comes from fossil fuels
that can pollute the air and water.
Every kilowatt-hour saved by
switching to a more efficient
appliance or light bulb reduces

pollution. Consider supporting
renewable energy sources –
contact your utility company for
more information. Take energy
use into consideration when
purchasing household products
and follow these tips to make your
home an energy-efficient one.



EARTH ACTION HERO

ANNETTE "THE ENERGY SAVER"

TAKING STEPS TO IMPROVE THE
environment may seem overwhelming.
You may think that you don't have the
time or the resources to make much of a
difference - but one person can help.
Throughout the year these pages will
highlight individuals who are taking
action to protect the earth. Their actions
prove that as you save our natural
resources you can also save money.
Here's your neighbor in action.

"The Energy Saver"

A resident for 43 years, Annette was
thinking about selling her home to
move into a condominium. But before
the 1953 three-bedroom rambler could
be put on the market, the electricity
needed to be upgraded. After the new
electrical service was installed in
January 2003, Annette decided that with

a few more energy-efficient upgrades,
she would prefer to stay in her home.

With the help of a deferred home
improvement loan through
Bloomington's Housing and
Redevelopment Authority (*see page 8*),
Annette installed a new heating system
changing from oil to gas, attic
insulation, vinyl siding, new windows
and a new front door.

"There is a big difference in the new
windows and the original 50-year-old
windows," Annette said. "They don't
steam or ice up, there are no drafts and
they are easier to clean."

Her heating bills are lower too.
Annette compared her August 2002 bills
of \$84 per month to her August 2003
bills of \$45 per month after a new air
conditioner and furnace were installed –
a savings of almost 50 percent.

Way to go, Annette!

MORE ENERGY SAVING TIPS

CHECK YOUR HOME'S WINDOWS AND DOORS

WINDOWS AND DOORS OFTEN ACCOUNT
for 35 to 40 percent of a home's heat loss
in the winter and an even larger fraction
of heat gain in the summer. When
shopping for new windows, check the
label for the U-factor. A 0.35 or less U-
factor and a solar heat gain coefficient of
0.55 or less is recommended.
Weatherstrip and caulk around old
windows and doors.

HEATING SYSTEM

A comfortable and healthy home
requires an efficient, sound heating
system. It is critical to recognize that the
elements in your home are interrelated.
Adding insulation, caulking, replacing
windows or remodeling your kitchen
can affect the efficiency and safe
operation of flame-burning appliances.
For example, adding a kitchen fan will
alter the operation of a water heater and
many furnaces.

When replacing your furnace, get
the most energy efficient one. The

ENERGY MYTHS UNCOVERED

ENERGY MYTH:

Using hot water to flush grease
down drains prevents clogging.



Cold water helps
solidify grease,
preventing it from
sticking to pipes. Save hot water by
using cold water to flush grease
down drains and through garbage
disposals.

ENERGY MYTH:

You need really hot water to
sterilize dishes and clothes.



Even at the hottest
setting on your water
heater, dishes and
clothes are not sterilized.

ENERGY MYTH:

It's better to leave a light on instead
of turning it off when you know you
will be using it a short time later.



A bulb that is on for
one second uses one
second's worth of
electricity – no more, no less. This is
true even for fluorescent bulbs – so
turn lights off whenever they're
serving no purpose.

Source: *Energy Myth and Facts*
from the Minnesota Department
of Commerce

payback will be short and will save you
hundreds of dollars on your fuel bill. An
old furnace, even when it's running well,
may extract only 60 percent of the
available heat from the fuel. That means
only 60 cents of your heating dollar is
going into the house to heat; the rest is
going out the chimney. In contrast,
many new furnaces are so efficient that
they waste less than a nickel of every
dollar spent, and some as little as 25
percent of the electrical energy your
standard furnace may consume.